

## Note

### A new combination in *Morinda* L. (Rubiaceae) for Australia

As a result of the publication of *Queensland Plants: Names and Distribution* (Henderson 1997), it has come to our attention that there is a nomenclatural problem regarding the eastern and northern Australian species recorded therein under Rubiaceae as *Morinda acutifolia* F.Muell.

George Bentham (1867) published the name *Coprosma acutifolia* for material collected by Goodwin and Dallachy at Durandoo, New South Wales, and sent to him in 1856 by Ferdinand Mueller in Melbourne. This material had been labelled *Coprosma acutifolia* by Mueller.

Unfortunately, by 1867 the name *Coprosma acutifolia* had already been published by Joseph Hooker for a different species of *Coprosma* from New Zealand (Hooker 1857). Thus, Mueller's name, when published by Bentham, was a later homonym and hence illegitimate under Article 53.1 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN) (Greuter *et al.* 1994).

Mueller was aware of the problem with the binomen *Coprosma acutifolia* F.Muell. ex Benth. for he published (Mueller 1869) a brief note on this and provided the new name *Coprosma canthoides* F.Muell. for the Australian species concerned.

However, he apparently overlooked this note and combination when he named this species in *Morinda* as *M. acutifolia* F.Muell. (Mueller 1875). There he cited the name *Coprosma acutifolia* F.Muell. ex Benth. as a synonym but did not mention *C. canthoides* F.Muell. By including *Coprosma acutifolia* F.Muell. ex Benth. (as 'F.M. in Bentham'), *nom. illeg.*, in his protologue, Mueller is taken as providing a new name for the species dating from 1875 (ICBN Art. 58.3) but the type of his name is the type of *Coprosma acutifolia* F.Muell. ex Benth. (ICBN Art. 7.3).

As the type of *Coprosma acutifolia* F.Muell. ex Benth. is automatically the type of *C. canthoides* F.Muell. (ICBN Art. 7.3), and is also the type of *Morinda acutifolia* F.Muell., according to Article 52.1 of the ICBN, Mueller in 1875 published an illegitimate name which is to be rejected. The name that Mueller ought to have provided for the species he circumscribed as *Morinda acutifolia* is *M. canthoides*.

Accordingly, the necessary new combination is now provided.

***Morinda canthoides*** (F.Muell.) Halford & R.J.F.Hend. **comb. nov.** *Coprosma canthoides* F.Muell., *Fragm.* 7: 45 (1869); *Coprosma acutifolia* F.Muell. ex Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 3: 429 (1867), *nom. illeg.* non Hook.f., *J. Linn. Soc.* 1: 128 (1857); *Morinda acutifolia* F.Muell., *Fragm.* 9: 179 (1875), *nom. illeg.* **Type:** [Australia, New South Wales.] Durandoo, undated, Hb. *F. Mueller* (holo: K.n.v.; BRI, photo).

## References

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